

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01
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P R 281457Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7075
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL STUTTGART
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05482

CINCEUR FOR COL. SANDERS; CINCUSAFE FOR DPC;
USAREUR FOR DCSPER, AEAJA-1A, AND POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PEPR MARR ELAB GW US
SUBJECT: ALLIED FORCES' HIRING PRACTICES IN FRG

REF: BONN 4860 DTG 161945Z MAR 78

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE LOCAL HIRE QUESTION
INFORMALLY ON MARCH 20 WITH PROFESSOR RUMPF OF THE
FOREIGN OFFICE, WHO CONFIRMED THAT A NOTE VERBALE WAS
BEING PREPARED WHICH WOULD PROPOSE TO THE EMBASSY A MORE
FORMAL AGREEMENT ON A NUMERICAL CEILING FOR US CITIZENS
IN LOCAL NATIONAL (LN) POSITIONS. EMBOFF URGED THAT THE
NOTE BE DELAYED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE SO THAT WE COULD
CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE
THE PROBLEM.

2. EMBOFF FURTHER STATED THAT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS
FROM WASHINGTON WERE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO
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ACCEPT ANY KIND OF FORMAL CEILING. AT THE SAME TIME, HE
STRESSED THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR LAYING OFF GERMAN
WORKERS TO INCREASE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF DEPENDENT HIRE
AND THAT, IF FEARS OF LAY-OFFS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
PRESSURES ON THE FRG TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT, IT SEEMED
POSSIBLE THAT WAYS COULD BE FOUND FOR ALLAYING THOSE
FEARS. HE ADDED THAT THE EMBASSY AND USAREUR HAD

REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO MEET GERMAN CONCERNS ON THAT SCORE.

3. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF A CEILING WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND THUS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO AN AMENDMENT TO THOSE AGREEMENTS. AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH AN AMENDMENT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING EITHER FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OR FROM THE CONGRESS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. RUMPF SAID THAT WHAT THE FRG HAD IN MIND WOULD NOT BE SO FORMAL AS TO CONSTITUTE A TREATY AMENDMENT. HE REITERATED A SUGGESTION HE HAD MADE EARLIER THAT, RECOGNIZING THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT CHANGE, ANY AGREEMENT ON A NUMERICAL CEILING COULD BE OF LIMITED DURATION, SUCH AS FOR TWO YEARS.

4. RUMPF MADE NO RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST THAT THE NOTE VERBALE BE HELD UP, NOR DID HE INDICATE HOW NEAR COMPLETION IT WAS.

5. COMMENT: FOR REASONS STATED IN REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE TO SEEK TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING THROUGH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE FINANCE MINISTRY, RATHER THAN TO HAVE TO RESPOND TO A PROPOSAL PRESENTED FORMALLY BY NOTE
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VERBALE. AS PRESENT INDICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT ARE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO BE REJECTED, THE RESULT COULD ONLY BE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GROWING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE UNIONS. WE THUS URGE AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN REFTEL WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO GO TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE WITH PROPOSALS OF OUR OWN.
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